

SAPC 8022 ✓
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31 July 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Operations
THROUGH: Deputy Project Director
SUBJECT: Cover Arrangements with AWS

1. This will confirm the account of what I have already given you of a meeting some two weeks ago with [REDACTED] of AWS. Since I have discussed this with you I will merely summarize the suggestions they made, all of which seem sensible to me.

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2. Although the character of the weather instrumentation carried by the U-2 on weather missions is unclassified (the instruments have already been listed and described in public releases), the fact that the tracking camera is carried on these missions in order to obtain cloud photography remains classified. Public admission of the presence of any kind of camera in the U-2's weather instrumentation would certainly arouse suspicion as to the true mission of our detachments.

3. It seems highly desirable that there should be a certain flow of unclassified correspondence through Air Force channels between each detachment and AWS Headquarters. Specifically, it was suggested that AWS Headquarters submit proposed mission tracks upon which the detachment commanders could comment in this channel. In addition, there should also certainly be some kind of periodic reporting by detachment commanders to AWS. The purpose of these activities will be, of course, to make the relationship between weather reconnaissance and the AWS Headquarters a plausible one.

4. One step which should be included in the procedure for the contingency of the loss of an aircraft should be an unclassified report of the loss by the detachment to AWS Headquarters. The absence of any such report would be highly implausible and doubts would be raised as to the reality of the cover relationship.

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5. I understand that these arrangements will be further discussed with AWS probably by [REDACTED] and that appropriate instructions will be sent by us to [REDACTED]. I believe the arrangements finally made should be published internally in an Operations Policy Letter or other appropriate document. I would suggest, too, that we obtain copies of the unclassified correspondence between the detachments and AWS Headquarters so we will be informed on all aspects of the cover relationship.

RMB
RICHARD M. BISSELL, Jr.
Project Director

RMB:pas
cy 1-Dir. of Ops.
cy 2-Dop. Proj. Dir.
cy 3- Proj. Security Ofc.
cy 4-RMB Chrono
cy 5- Reading
cy 6-Chrono

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